



Municipality of Anchorage
Animal Control Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023



1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Ms. Hamer. A quorum was present.

Members Present Allegra Hamer, Chair; Cathy Foerster, Pamela Chamber, Sandy Potter, Jessie Janowski, Tim Ebben.

Members Absent: Rachelle Alger.

Staff Present: Tamiah Liebersbach, AHD; Nicholas Ullery, AHD; Patricia Vannatter, ALPS.

Public Present: David Evans, Holly Hill, Michelle Sinnott, Travis Smith, Frank Lahr, Elise O'Loughlin, Gina Ashman, Ray Dinger, Heather Bell, Lillian Smith, Kendra Higgins

2. **Minutes from December 2022 Meeting:**

Minutes were reviewed. Approved

3. **Requested Presentations:**

None.

4. **Persons to be Heard:**

Public Comment on proposed changes to Title 17

David Evans' Public Comment was given as follows:

- Objected to provisions that say Activities not allowed by control by command including, hiking, walking, biking, and skiing.
- If activities are going to be listed, they should include all other activities such as running, jogging, horseback riding, snowshoeing, skateboarding, riding scooters, or other segway-like devices.
- Replace "Activities not allowed by control by command" with "Control by leash is required on all of following whether or not covered by snow".
- Believes biking on a narrow trail with a long leash is dangerous and virtually impossible.

Holly Hill's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Understands now the clarification with hiking, biking, and skiing with e- collars is currently legal or going to be legal.

- Sited research showing e-collars would be a poor misdirection of the ACAB to regulate trail use.
- Believes in force-free dog training

Michelle Sinnott's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Testifying in opposition to the proposed changes of Title 17.
- Electronic collar is a negative reinforcement training device and is not a method of control.
- Leash provision in Title 17 does not and should not dictate what training methods are appropriate for purposes of teaching recall.
- Proposal created 2 conflicting definitions for the same term.
- Control by command is not a substitute for a physical leash.

Travis Smith's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Disagrees that biking hiking and skiing should be disallowed with voice control.

Frank Lahr's Public comment was given as follows:

- Control by command is about perception. What may seem like control to one may seem out of control to another.

Elise O'Loughlin's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Here to represent the equine world.
- Livestock is trained and exercised in public use areas.
- In the most recent revision, it was changed to the animals.
- Not everyone has an off-leash animal which is a dog.
- Would like to see clarification regarding the animal's definition.

Gina Ashman's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Questioned how certain activities can be completed while having the dog restrained
- E collar is not an equivalent of a leash or a training method.
- Prefer an area or trail restrictions approach.

Ray Dinger's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Representing Alaska Search and Rescue dogs (ASAR)
- Majority of dogs are trained in town
- Concerned with some language and statements.
- ASAR does try to avoid large public areas.
- Advocates for exceptions for training search and rescue dogs.

Heather Bell's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Works with the search and rescue community.

- Dispatched through and affiliated with State Troopers
- Suggests that not only elaborated on control methods but the product of animal that is under control.
- A concept of passing a test and proof of ability to do so and have the privilege updated like a regular drives license.

Lillian Smith's Public Comment was given as follows:

- Believes most people have common sense to leash the dog when appropriate and let her off as appropriate.
- This impacts someone's life with a blanket statement to say voice command is never ok when it really is up to people's judgment.
- Public needs a level of trust in each other.

Kendra Higgins' Public Comment was given as follows.

- Would like the law that is going to be implemented should be evidence-based.
- What would it look like to have this leash law enforced?

5. **Standing Reports:**

Anchorage Animal Care and Control (AACC) Monthly Report and Public Outreach

Ms. Vannatter summarized the highlights of the December 2022 Anchorage Animal Care and Control Monthly Reports.

Ms. Vannatter summarized the highlights of the December Public Outreach reports as well as volunteer hours.

6. **Committee Reports:**

a. Title 17 Review Committee – (Pam Schamber)

Ms. Schamber reported: None

b. Spay Neuter Working Group (Allegra Hamer)

Ms. Hamer reported: None

7. **AHD Staff Reports:**

Ms. Liebersbach reported:

Thanked everyone for the comments.

4 vacant board seats.

8. **Old Business:**

A concern was brought up by a community council regarding Title 17 and ACAB regarding the ACAB having the responsibility to euthanize an animal.

ACAB Vice Chair and Title 17 Chair seats are open and see if anyone is willing to step up as Vice-chair for the next few months.

A motion to table this discussion was made and the motion was seconded.

9. New Business:

None.

10. Persons to be Heard on Meeting Topics:

None.

11. Informational Items:

- a. The next Title 17 Review Committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Anchorage Animal Care and Control.

- b. The next Animal Control Advisory Board meeting will be held Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

12. Adjournment: Ms. Foerster motions to adjourn.